

## WHO IS A VULNERABLE ADULT?

A vulnerable adult is a person 18 years of age or older who, because of mental, developmental or physical impairment is unable to:

- communicate or make responsible decisions to manage one's own care or resources; or
- carry out or arrange for essential activities of daily living; or
- protect oneself from abuse.

A vulnerable adult is one who has suffered abuse or is in danger of abuse if immediate action is not taken.

## WHAT ARE SOME INDICATIONS OF ABUSE & NEGLECT?

**Physical Abuse** - Non-accidental injury or pain with bruises, welts, skin discoloration, or fractures.

**Psychological Abuse** - Threats, insults, harassment, humiliation, or intimidation that confuses or frightens the vulnerable adult.

**Sexual Abuse** - Sexual contact or conduct including pornographic photographing without consent.

**Caregiver Neglect** - Failure to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, protection from abandonment, physical care, health care, supervision, or failure to carry out responsibilities as an assumed, legal, or contractual caregiver.

**Self-Neglect** - Failure to care for one's self thereby exposing one's self to a situation or condition which poses an imminent risk of death or risk of serious physical harm.

**Financial Exploitation** - Wrongful taking, withholding, appropriation, or use of a vulnerable adult's money, real property, or personal property.

## REPORTING VULNERABLE ADULT ABUSE & NEGLECT:

State law requires certain professionals to report vulnerable adult abuse and neglect:

- Any licensed or registered professional of the healing arts and any health-related occupation.
- Employees or officers of any public or private agency or institution providing social, medical, hospital or mental health services, including financial assistance.
- Employees or officers of any law enforcement agency.
- Employees or officers of adult residential care homes, adult day care centers, or similar institutions such as community care foster family homes.
- Medical examiners or coroners.
- Licensed social workers or non-licensed persons employed in a social worker position.

All others are encouraged to report abuse and neglect. The reporter may remain anonymous and is immune from any liability for making the report.

*All reports are confidential.*

## WHAT STEPS ARE RECOMMENDED FOR PREVENTION?

- Reduce stress by asking for assistance. Physicians, nurses, health care providers, and social workers can provide information on where to go for help.
- Join community support groups which deal with the problems associated with caring for individuals such as Alzheimer's disease, mental illness, developmental disabilities, or alcoholism.
- Provide nursing and care home staff with information on how to meet your family's needs.
- Visit a facility before your family member enters it and call the long-term care ombudsman with any concerns about the care: 586-0100.
- Obtain information about available resources in your community.

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Report adult abuse and neglect by calling Monday through Friday between 7:45 am and 4:30 pm.

<b>Oahu</b>	<b>832-5115</b>
<b>Kauai</b>	<b>241-3337</b>
<b>Maui/Lanai</b>	<b>243-5151</b>
<b>Molokai</b>	<b>553-1763</b>
<b>Kau/Kona/Kohala/Kamuela</b>	<b>327-6280</b>
<b>Hilo/Hamakua/Puna</b>	<b>933-8820</b>

In an emergency or after business hours call 911

Call the Area Agency on Aging for information on services for age 60 & older:

<b>Oahu</b>	<b>523-4545</b>
<b>Big Island</b>	<b>961-8600</b>
<b>Maui</b>	<b>270-7774</b>
<b>Kauai</b>	<b>241-6400</b>

or call ASK 2000

*Vulnerable Adult Abuse and Neglect in Hawaii* was prepared jointly by the Executive Office on Aging and the Department of Human Services, Adult Protective Services.

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